

MINUTES  
KICKAPOO RESERVE MANAGEMENT BOARD  
KICKAPOO VALLEY RESERVE VISITOR CENTER  
October 21, 2021

- I. 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Susan Cushing.
- Board members in attendance via Zoom: Susan Cushing, Scott Lind, Reggie Nelson, Travis Downing, Julie Hoel, AJ Mann, Bill Quackenbush, Tina Brown. Absent: Dick Wallin, Dave Maxwell, Luke Zahm. Staff: Scott Walter, Jason Leis, Erica Cronk, Jackie Yocum, Jonel Kiesau.
  - Motion by Downing/Lind to approve the agenda with change of moving Land Management Committee report from the sixth to the fourth item on the agenda. Unanimous.
  - Compliance with open meeting law: Walter -Yes, agenda posted in compliance with State law.
  - Public Input: None.
- II. Lind/Downing motion to approve September 16, 2021 minutes. Motion carries.
- III. Action Agenda (Decision Items):
- Land Acknowledgment Statement [review on screen]. Kiesau/Hoel: Education & Tourism developed Statement to recommend to KRMB. Implementation has not been determined. Will leave that up to whoever is developing the materials. Quackenbush requests more time to review and develop statement that incorporates three basic aspects of Statement; 1) the entity/agency group acknowledging that they are on ancestral homeland, 2) other indigenous groups are recognized and 3) how will you rectify the situation. Statement generally 100 words – straight forward and direct. Quackenbush will work on draft and circulate via email.
- IV. Land Management Committee Report. Leis Update:
- Results of timber sale bidding process. Timber stand bid out for third time – received zero bids, again. Leis will be meeting with Forester to find out how to modify bid and generate more interest. Walter: ripple effect being felt throughout timber community right now. One of the biggest mills in the State closed causing back log of timber.
  - West Ridge woodland burn. Planning prescribed burn, if conditions are right, on West Ridge where hardwood thinning was done a couple years ago. Goal(s): reinvigorate the area and restore oaks and set invasives back. Approximately 20 acres to burn. Purchased a leaf blower to help clear out fire line and push through thicker brush that might not have enough fuel to keep going.
  - Squad camera. KRMB approved purchase of squad cam and two body cams up to \$13,500 over 5 years. Leis found alternative solution. Purchased in car video system and 2 body cams with related software for \$5,530. No recurring fees. Also looking to purchase iCrimefighter software which allows police videos and reports to be securely stored and easily shared with other agencies. \$250/annually fee for video storage.
  - Approval of Old 131 stream bank stabilization permit. Rip rap along Old 131 Trail by Bridge 16 where trail was washing away. Received approval from Vernon County Zoning (regulates above high-water mark) to move forward with project. Paul Krahn applied for DNR (regulates below high-water mark) permit to perform the work. Do not anticipate any problems with DNR permit.
- V. Informational Items. Walter Update:
- KRMB Fiscal Year (FY)20-21 Biennial Report [reviewed on screen]. Statutory requirement for State agencies, summarizing progress towards goals as laid out in the Biennial Budget. Staff summarized their programs over the last two years. Hard copies will be available and sent out locally. Submitted to Governor's Office and legislators. Use report as a tool to promote all that we do. Hoel: beautifully done and really tells the story.

- Budget Update-to date FY22 Revenue/Expenses [review on screen]. Review appropriation accounts. 12100 Program Revenue appropriation; 12200 Gift & Grants; 12400 Law Enforcement; 16100 Forestry/Base allocation. Remaining balance in FY22 in 16100 and 12400 appropriation on track – about quarter of way through FY and three quarters of budget remain in these two accounts. 12100 appropriation at about 50% budget remaining. Will help be offset by Summer/Robin/Jonel with hours that will be reimbursed via the DPI grant as well as ag lease payments later in FY. Budgeted LTE line in 12100 overspent. Walter/Cronk will rectify when developing FY22 operating budget. \$13,018 encumbered in 12200 for AV equipment that will be delivered and installed soon.
- November 12<sup>th</sup> deadline to develop Operating Budget for FY22. Walter sat through training with DOA accounting staff. Will present budget at next KRMB meeting. Budget will get loaded into STAR system after it has been finalized.
- Historic trend in KRMB state funding [review on screen]. Considering staffing needs, workloads, number of visitors, expanding programs, etc. Walter researched previous biennial budgets and pulled out SEG (Segregated) funding and Program Revenue (PR) funding that has been allocated over time. Plotted data on graph. KVR experienced ten years of solid growth with budget increasing by about \$65,000 each year. Allowed for addition of two more Full Time Employees. Over past decade, growth has been relatively flat. Budget increase by less than \$5,000 each year, however things have blossomed here on the Reserve. Two examples: we now have a Forest School on site and use of trail system more than ever.
- Compiling KVR user data. Correlates to historic trend in KRMB state funding. Quantify increased use - number of visitors at Visitor Center, campers, attendees at Driftless Dialogue, summer camp, school groups, etc... Develop process that allows us to easily tabulate. Increase use meaning increase workload; need this data to request more staff support. Staff working to gather this data into a single data set. A lot of great data already exists. Hoel: includes Friends of KVR growth, too.
- Concept: fully automated registration system. Current online system accounts for around 50% of current permit sales (not including camping). Consider 24/7 terminal in one central location. Online sales much more efficient system. Also allow for tracking user data. Necessary implementation of some sort of reservation system. Discussion will be ongoing. Staff will continue to research options.
- Forest management presentation and discussion [review PowerPoint on screen]. KVR has approximately 5,000 acres of forested land. Discuss what forest management means. Sets guidelines for what KRMB is willing and not willing to do. Goal to discuss forest ecology objectively to develop common understanding of how forests change over time and how management can guide those processes. Lots of varying views and philosophies. Forest communities have personal connection as well as an ecological role. Retention of diversity is a basic tenet of sustainable forest management. Next steps – further KRMB discussion.

#### VI. Other issues:

- Board member matters or requests for future agenda items. Walter: would like to continue discussion on registration system and Forest Management Plan.

#### VII. Next KRMB meeting November 18, 2021.

Hoel/Brown motion to adjourn to closed session, *pursuant to s. 19.185(1)(c) of Wisconsin State Statutes: considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance data of any public employee over which the governmental body has justification or exercises responsibility*; motion carries.

Meeting adjourned to closed session 8:40 PM.

Recorded by: Erica Cronk